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Directory



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DEAR YUKONER,

Welcome to the 2021 Yukon Mining and Exploration Directory.

As with everything this past year, the Yukon Chamber of Mines is adapting with the times and proud to be distributing this year's publication to every household in the territory and sharing the many success stories about how the Yukon's responsible mining and exploration industry contributes to all Yukoners' unparalleled quality of life.

Mining is essential. Whether through the mobile devices that keep our families connected through the pandemic or the rooftop solar panels across our neighbourhoods that reduce our carbon footprint, mining touches every aspect of our lives.

At a time when other jurisdictions across the country and around the globe experienced massive economic disruption in the wake of COVID-19, our territory's economy experienced growth thanks to the Yukon's modern and responsible mineral development and exploration industry.

Throughout the pandemic, mining and exploration activities provided much-needed support for the Yukon's hospitality and retail sectors and millions of dollars to our First Nations and community partners through royalties, benefits agreements, and employment opportunities.

It is my hope that the articles contained within these pages will shine a light on the industry's ongoing legacy—from clean hydro power to popular cross-country-skiing and mountain-biking trails—and how this legacy continues connecting us to each other and the world in a time when working together for the betterment of all Yukoners is more important than ever.

Sincerely,



Ed Peart
President
Yukon Chamber of Mines



**YUKON CHAMBER OF MINES
President's Message**

Ministers' Message



Thank you for adapting and innovating this past year as the mineral sector adjusted to pandemic-related challenges. Your focus on health measures enabled essential work to continue and kept our communities safe.

Your work is valued and we are committed to supporting the mineral sector in the long-term because mining and exploration contribute significantly to Yukon's economy by supporting local businesses and opportunities for Yukoners. We proudly continue our commitment to the mineral industry and look ahead to a future where these opportunities continue to grow and develop.

At the same time, we will ensure responsible resource development respects Yukon's historical and cultural roots, its lands and its people. We are doing this by working with Yukon's mineral industry to increase regulatory clarity so the industry can thrive and provide tangible benefits for our communities.

We also remain focused on having strong respectful relationships with First Nation governments and growing our economy together. Yukon is a leading jurisdiction with strong government-to-government relationships with First Nations, world-class mineral deposits and strategic investments in resource infrastructure and clean energy.

The Yukon Mineral Development Strategy Independent Panel published their final version of the strategy and recommendations on April 15, 2021. The Independent Panel's final report provides advice for further review and consideration by the Government of Yukon and Yukon First Nations.

Our next steps will include working with First Nations, industry and others as appropriate. We will work hard to ensure Yukon's regulatory process is effective to maintain responsible development that reflects the values of Yukoners and respects the rights and culture of First Nations.

By standing strong together Yukon will continue to be an outstanding place to invest and do business.



Hon. John Streicker,
Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources



Hon. Ranj Pillai,
Minister of Economic Development



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YUKON CHAMBER OF MINES Board of Directors



ED PEART – PRESIDENT

The current President of the Yukon Chamber of Mines (YCM), Ed Peart, was born and raised in the mining town of Yellowknife, N.W.T., and moved to the Yukon in November 2002. Currently the Manager – Charters, FBO and Corporate Sales with Air North, Yukon’s Airline, he has diverse experience in aviation related to the mining industry. Ed has also worked for Alkan Air in the past as the Director of Ground Operations, leading a dynamic team dedicated to serving Yukon’s mining sector.

Ed has served on the YCM Board of Directors for one year as a Director and two as President. Ed has also been a part of the Yukon Chamber of Mines’ Geoscience organizing committee from 2014–2016, served as Chair of the Yukon Chamber of Commerce’s Transportation Infrastructure Committee, has been the President of the Yukon Convention Bureau, and is the Vice-President of the Dawson City Chamber of Commerce.

Ed is a commercial pilot and hopes to fly with Air North, Yukon’s Airline once air travel demand increases.

Ed is also a Canadian Armed Forces Reserve Officer in the CIC for 16.5 years and still serving.



MIKE BURKE – PAST PRESIDENT

Mike Burke is a Yukon-based consulting geologist and he was the Chief Geologist for Golden Predator Mining Corp from 2011 to 2017. Prior to joining Golden Predator, Mike was previously employed by the Government of Yukon beginning in 1990, most recently as the Head of Mineral Services for the Yukon Geological Survey. Mr. Burke was responsible for liaising with prospectors, mining and exploration companies, visiting active exploration sites, authoring the annual *Yukon Mining, Development and Exploration Overview*, and presenting information on Yukon to investment bankers, financial institutions, and mining analysts in meetings and conferences around the world.

Mike has worked since 1983 in the mineral exploration and mining industry in British Columbia and Yukon. He was fortunate to be part of the exploration team which discovered the Sa Dena Hes lead-zinc mine and the Ketzra River Gold Mine in Yukon. Mike worked at the Ketzra River Gold Mine from exploration through mine development, production, and closure as the Mine Geologist before joining the Yukon Geological Survey, in 1990.

Mike holds a B.Sc. in Geology from the University of British Columbia, is a Professional

Geologist with the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of British Columbia, and is a member of the Society of Economic Geologists. Mike is also a member of the Yukon College Board of Governors since 2011, a member of the Advisory Committee for the Centre for Northern Innovation in Mining at Yukon College, and a member of the Technical Advisory Committee for the Yukon Geological Survey.



ANDREW CARNE – FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

Andrew Carne is the Vice-President, Corporate and Project Development with ATAC Resources Ltd. Prior to joining ATAC, he was with Archer, Cathro & Associates (1981) Limited, where he worked on a variety of Yukon exploration projects, both in the office and in the field. Andrew has significant exposure to later-stage exploration projects and has been highly involved in permitting and regulatory processes in the Yukon. He has been a Director of the Chamber of Mines since 2018, currently sits as one of the Chamber’s Vice-Presidents, and is chair of the Land Access and Regulatory Affairs committee.

Andrew has a Bachelor’s of Applied Science in Materials Engineering and a Master’s degree

in Civil Engineering specializing in Project Management, both from the University of British Columbia. He is a registered Professional Engineer in the province of British Columbia.



ALLAN NIXON – SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT

Allan Nixon is the Vice-President of External Affairs at BMC Minerals Limited. He helped develop the Kudz Ze Kayah mine.

He is a lifelong northerner and has been a Yukon resident for over 30 years.

Prior to joining BMC, Allan headed The Borealis Group, a strategic advisory consulting firm in the Yukon.

He had a long career with the Yukon Government, the last eight years as Assistant Deputy Minister-Transportation Division, Department of Highways and Public Works. Allan was responsible for management and delivery of public road, bridge, and airport infrastructure, as well as regulatory aspects of transportation within the Yukon.

Allan has extensive experience in First Nation and community relations in the Yukon, including direct experience as a Yukon Government Land Claim Negotiator.



LORALEE JOHNSTONE – DIRECTOR

Lorelee Johnstone is a community and government relations, business and permitting specialist, and environmental manager, with experience in territorial, provincial, federal, and First Nations governments, the private sector, boards and non-profit organizations, and the public, and an entrepreneur. She has a reputation for cultivating productive relationships and achieving results in a cost- and time-effective manner.

Lorelee has been a Yukon Chamber of Mines Board member since 2019. Lorelee has worked as the Manager of Permitting & Community Relations at JDS Energy & Mining (2012–2017) and Senior Sustainability & Regulatory Professional for Couer Silvertip (2017–2020) and been with Whitehorse Gold Corp. since November 2020.



STUART MURRAY – DIRECTOR

Stuart Murray was born in Whitehorse, Yukon, where he currently raises his two young sons. Stuart is the Chief Operating Officer and partner at Small’s Expediting and General Services since 2018. He has over 15 years of experience in the Yukon mining industry, primarily focused in the service and supply sector. Stuart began his career in 2002 at Aurora Geosciences as a seasonal assistant, with increasing responsibilities and field experience. He was promoted to the role of Warehouse and Logistics Manager and involved in exploration, geological, geophysical, and camp-building projects in the Yukon and N.W.T.

Since joining Small’s Expediting in 2016, Stuart has participated in logistical, transportation, and procurement support for the Yukon’s major mines and exploration projects. He is actively supporting Yukon communities and First Nation development corporations as an advocate for community involvement in mining projects.

Stuart brings an entrepreneurial wealth of knowledge representing the service and supply businesses throughout our Yukon.

>>>

YUKON CHAMBER OF MINES **Board of Directors**



BRANDON MACDONALD – DIRECTOR

Brandon Macdonald is a geologist with a diverse experience base, including exploration geology worldwide and investment banking. Currently he is CEO of Fireweed Zinc, a Yukon-based exploration/development company focused on their Macmillan Pass zinc-lead-silver project in eastern Yukon. Brandon has a long history of mining exploration work in the Yukon and originally hails from Ross River. He is a professional geologist registered with Engineers and Geoscientists British Columbia (EGBC).



CHRISTIAN ROLDAN – DIRECTOR

Christian Roldan is a chemical engineer graduated in the National Polytechnic School in Quito–Ecuador with a Master’s Degree in Metallurgical Engineering from the University of Utah. Christian has been the Mine General Manager for the San Martin

Mine in Honduras, Cerro Blanco Project in Guatemala and the Marlin Mine in Guatemala. These sites involved open-pit and underground mining and heap-leach and mill operations. Christian joined the Coffee Project Team in 2018 as Study Manager in charge of the Engineering Development of the Project for Newmont.



NIKOLETT KOVACS – DIRECTOR

Nikolett Kovacs is a Professional Geoscientist with more than eight years of exploration and two years of operational experience in North America, Eastern Europe, and the Middle East. Nikolett holds a Master’s degree from the Mineral Deposit Research Unit at the University of British Columbia and previously received a B.Sc. Honours degree in Earth Sciences from Memorial University in Newfoundland. Nikolett is a member of the Canadian Institute of Mining and a member of the Minerals Technical Liaison Committee for the Yukon’s Department of Energy, Mines, and Resources. Nikolett is currently on the executive for Yukon Women in Mining.



R. ALLAN DOHERTY – DIRECTOR

Al Doherty has been active in mineral exploration in the Yukon continuously since 1981. He has been an active member of YCM since 1987, served as President 1988–89 and 1993, and been a director numerous times. He was a PDAC board member from 1996–2000, YMAB board member from 1989–1993, and founder and board chair of the Yukon Mine Training Association.



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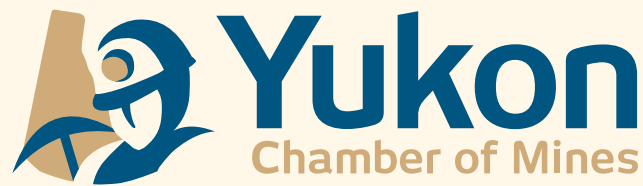


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THE YUKON CHAMBER OF MINES represents a dynamic membership and, since its creation in 1943, works to serve its valued members and advance the interests of all those involved in the Yukon mining industry.

As the trusted voice of mining, the Yukon Chamber of Mines thrives on the government, community, First Nations, and individual partnerships it forges to help facilitate an environment of responsible development—one in which its members can continue to contribute and prosper.

YUKON CHAMBER OF MINES

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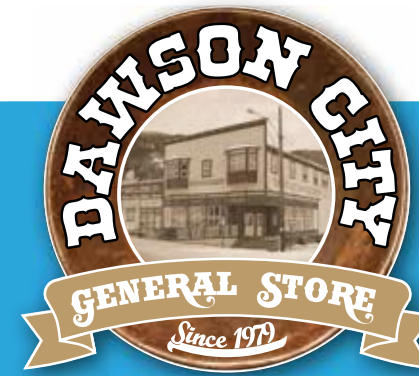
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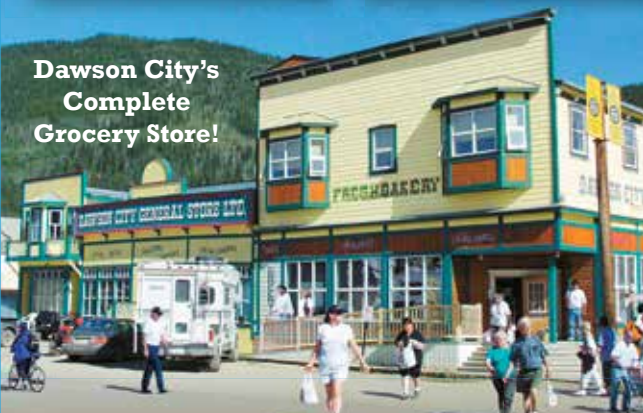
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OPERATING IN A PANDEMIC

Why We Should Care About Mining in the Yukon

Since the 1880s—from silver and gold production in the Mayo region to the world-famous Klondike Gold Rush—mining has defined much of our collective culture, whether we directly experience this connection in our daily lives or not.

Exploration and mining are the foundation of the Yukon’s private-sector economy; however, the many reasons why may not always make news headlines.

Like everything during the pandemic, how exploration and mining companies and the Yukon businesses which serve them have persevered has been unprecedented.

Despite the pandemic’s challenges, Victoria Gold Corp, owner and operator of the Eagle Gold Mine northwest of the Village of Mayo within the traditional territory of the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyak Dun, has both successfully ramped up operations to become the largest gold mine in Yukon history and remains committed to hiring and training locally to provide Yukoners with rewarding and well-paying jobs—a core philosophy which supports employee recruitment and retention.

“We are proud to hire locally, and, at present, approximately 50 per cent of our 350 to 400 employees at the Eagle Gold Mine are Yukoners and many are First Nation of Na-Cho Nyak Dun citizens,” says John McConnell, President and CEO of Victoria Gold Corp.

Like Victoria Gold, Alkan Air Ltd., which serves the industry and recognizes exploration and mining’s significant contributions to the territory, has also focused on hiring, training, and retaining Yukon employees.

“Exploration and mining form the backbone of our prosperity here in the Yukon,” says Alkan Air Ltd. Presi-



» Drill rig on a stunning Yukon ridge at sunset during Archer Cathro’s 2020 exploration field season.

dent Wendy Tayler. “In addition to being the greatest private-sector contributor to the Yukon’s GDP, the industry’s work to lead and engage meaningfully with Yukon First Nations on social and environmental issues makes them a great partner for us as a locally owned and operated Yukon business and for the entire territory.”

Archer Cathro, a Whitehorse-based geological consulting company, has been operating in the Yukon since its establishment in 1965. In 2020, 73 per cent of the company’s employees were Yukoners and 38 per cent of those were Yukon First Nations citizens.

“Exploration is a logistically challenging business to start with, but adding a global pandemic really increased

“Exploration is a logistically challenging business to start with, but adding a global pandemic really increased the level of organization required of our operations.”

the level of organization required of our operations,” says Heather Burrell, a senior geologist and partner with Archer Cathro. “We implemented COVID-19 education, training, and monitoring of compliance procedures within our company throughout our different Yukon projects and developed rigorous health and safety protocols following the recommendations of the Chief Medical Officer of Health.”

Industry-wide, all efforts have been continuous and adaptive to uphold the health and safety of Yukoners and Yukon communities, while meeting and exceeding



» Weekly water surface sampling at the Eagle Gold Mine is just one component of the company's and the industry's commitment to Yukoners and the environment.

the COVID-19 guidelines and recommendations of the Yukon government and Chief Medical Officer of Health.

Archer Cathro shared all of its COVID-19 protocols with the Yukon First Nations within whose traditional territories the company has projects.

Alkan Air developed a COVID-19 committee of key company personnel, which worked to ensure the necessary personal protective equipment was in place to protect both the company's employees and clientele.

"The pandemic had a major impact on the sectors we serve," continues Tayler. "The movement of people is critical to exploration and mining, tourism, and other sectors, so until we have reached a point in the pandemic in which we can be assured there will be no further lockdowns, it remains the biggest potential obstacle for our operations."

When COVID-19 first impacted the territory in March 2020, Victoria Gold reduced travel to the mine site and the employee schedule was adjusted from a two-week-in, two-week-out, rotation to a four-week-in, four-week-out, rotation to mitigate pandemic risk and adapt to Yukon's self-isolation requirements. In October, the

company received approval from the territorial government to adjust yet again to a three-week-in, three-week-out, rotation, and from the pandemic's onset, travel by mine employees and contractors into Yukon communities has been restricted, which continues today.

"This past year has been challenging as we implemented and managed COVID-19 mitigation programs and procedures," says David Crottey, Victoria Gold Health, Safety, and Security (HSS) Manager at the Eagle Gold Mine. "Victoria Gold and the HSS team have worked closely with the government and the company's on- and off-site medical teams to enable the company to continue operating the Eagle Gold Mine within an environment of strict COVID-19 measures."

"Moving forward this year, the pandemic continues to present the greatest risk to successful operations," continues McConnell. "Victoria Gold and the Yukon's exploration and mineral development industry acted early and acted responsibly, and we will continue to work in close cooperation with the Yukon government to mitigate risks to Yukoners due to COVID-19." □



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» **Top left:** Placer mining in the Klondike has supported the community during the pandemic. **Above:** A sixth-generation placer miner celebrates the product of a season's harvest. **Top right:** The Eldorado Hotel in Dawson City.

PLACER MINING KEEPING A COMMUNITY GOING

Since that fateful discovery in August 1896, which Yukoners still celebrate today on Discovery Day weekend, placer miners have plied the creeks of the Klondike and beyond for over five generations.

Placer mines are known as the "family farms of the north," a moniker supported by figures produced by the Klondike Placer Miners' Association (KPMA), which demonstrate that over 90 per cent of placer mines are family run.

The Yukon Geological Survey reports that placer-gold production for the 2020 season totaled 86,508 crude ounces, coming in at a value of CDN \$173.4 million in production revenue.

It was the highest annual production total since 1999. This is impressive given it was accomplished in the middle of a pandemic.

On average, a formidable 87 per cent of the placer mining industry's operating expenses are spent right here in the territory. So, at a time when Dawson City's other main industry—tourism—was essentially eradicated overnight by border closures and lockdowns in response to the pandemic, the placer industry invested over \$150 million into the Yukon economy at a time when local businesses needed it most.

This contribution is not lost on Peter Jenkins, owner of Dawson's Eldorado Hotel, which has been in operation since the early 1970s.

"Since our business was established, we have survived a major flood and a fire as well as economic downturns and family tragedies. None however has struck our business with the severity as this pandemic has done," says Jenkins. "Without the mining and exploration industry, and the placer mining community specifically, our busi-

"It is fair to say that if the mining season had not existed in 2020 we would be in a dire situation."

"We sometimes wonder if those residents of the Klondike that do not have a business or work directly in the mining industry truly understand what would happen to our town if we didn't have this industry to support our commerce."

ness would not have been able to withstand COVID-19's economic impact."

Brad Whitelaw, a former big-game outfitter and fellow hotelier, as well as operator of the Yukon's only paddle-wheeler, the *Klondike Spirit*, has also felt the pandemic's effects.

"Pre-pandemic, my business ventures all relied on the freedom of movement of people. I've dry docked my tour boat, sold my hunting concession, and will focus on keeping my hotel a viable operation," says Whitelaw. "As the cascading catastrophes continue, hopefully enough attention will be given to the only industry that is operating, and for Yukoners that's gold mining."

A few blocks away, Sally Derry and her husband, Paul, have operated the Bonanza Market for 25 years, offering a full range of groceries to Dawsonites including fresh meat, fresh produce, and baked goods, as well as a European-style delicatessen.

"In the spring of 2020 when the world came to a screeching halt, we really didn't know what to expect without any tourism coming to the Klondike," says Derry. "Fortunately, we continued to get a steady flow of business from mining throughout the summer that kept us busy. We were able to keep our year-round staff employed with no layoffs, and it is fair to say that if the mining season had not existed in 2020 we would be in a dire situation."

As global economic uncertainty continues into the 2021 season and beyond, placer mining is also seen as a viable path for future generations of Klondikers to follow along the road to economic recovery.

Dawson City's Robert Service School (RSS) offers a Grade 7 to 12 trades pathway, where students learn about careers in the mining, resource, tourism, and cultural sectors and earn credits to enter post-secondary training.

"Many students plan a career in the placer industry as evidenced by the number of RSS graduates working on placer mines," says teacher Peter Menzies. "With work comes the opportunity to apprentice and earn a ticket in one of several trades, from mechanics to cooking to welding. A stable mining industry supports community development for the long-term resulting in opportunities for youth."

"We sometimes wonder if those residents of the Klondike that do not have a business or work directly in the mining industry truly understand what would happen to our town if we didn't have this industry to support our commerce," continues Derry. "It is in the interest of everyone to keep it going."

Whitelaw adds, "Going forward in the pandemic, we need to focus on aiding what is still operational; the Yukon needs the economic driver of gold mining to help supplement all other smaller businesses that rely on their contribution."

"When we first opened, the mining industry was our main customer and remains that way to this date," concludes Jenkins. "We owe a debt of gratitude to the mining community for enabling us to stay in business."

To learn more about placer mining and its contributions to the territory, visit kpma.ca. □



» Alkan Air's Dornier 228 was added to the fleet in 2016. Based in Whitehorse, the aircraft services the territory's mining and exploration industry clientele in both passenger and cargo configurations.

« Alkan Air's Operations Manager Angela Kiriak has been flying since she was 18 years old.

A DAY WITH ANGELA KIRIAK

Q&A: An interview with the Alkan Air Ltd. Operations Manager

Originally from the Okanagan, where she completed the Aviation Diploma Program, Angela first joined Alkan Air as a pilot in 2001. After a break to have a family, she rejoined the company in 2014, taking on the role of Safety Manager and Quality Assurance Auditor the following year. In 2018, Angela became Operations Manager, overseeing the company's charter and medevac services.

What does a typical day look like as Operations Manager for Alkan Air?

My workday typically starts at 7:00 a.m. when I discuss with the flight follower (who supports the company's aircraft movements, weather reporting, and communications) what crew are available for Alkan's air ambulance (medevac) service and what aircraft are serviceable for the day. I check the weather for scheduled charter flights, and the company also has Transport Canada-regulated questions we ask all our clients.

I also discuss freight loads with the company's ramp attendants for that day's charters, check my emails and even drive the company's shuttle van to pick up charter passengers or run the forklift to help the ramp crew as required.

At around 3:00 p.m. I plan the crew scheduling for the following day's charters and by end of day have ensured the flight follower has a plan for our medevac crew throughout that night.

How did your role have to adapt in light of the COVID-19 pandemic?

In March 2020, when the pandemic first impacted the territory, Alkan Air struck a COVID-19 committee made up of key personnel in all areas of the company. We work together to ensure we all have the necessary PPE to protect both our employee base and our clientele. In doing so, we have been able to help protect the health and safety of our communities.

What do you enjoy most about your role?

I really enjoy the multi-tasking and problem solving. I wanted a job that would allow me to travel and originally thought about being a flight attendant or travel agent. Then I realized I could just learn to fly. So, I did.

What advice do you have for Yukoners wanting to enter the aviation industry?

I suggest being flexible with the path you take to achieve your goals. You will look back on all your career experiences and be thankful you had the opportunity for learning.

In addition to Alkan Air's charter and air ambulance services, the company established the Alkan Air Flight Academy and with Yukon University, created and delivers a two-year Aviation Management Diploma program. □

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Unless you live in a community or work for a business directly tied to exploration and mining, though, it might not be immediately apparent how much this industry contributes to Yukoners and where the investments are made.

Heather Burrell, a senior geologist and partner with independent geological consulting firm Archer, Cathro & Associates (1981) Limited (Archer Cathro), which has operated in the Yukon since 1965, says, "I think it's important to recognize that many Yukon individuals and businesses benefit from exploration and mining work in the territory."

In order to demonstrate this, she has shared a budget for one of her company's 2020 field season exploration projects, which outlines how Archer Cathro spent over \$2 million right here in the Yukon in just three months.

"All of these totals are for invoices and payroll that was paid to Yukon workers and companies," Burrell explains. "Many of our hires are local and that's really important to us. In addition, the local, service and supply companies are big winners in terms of dollars spent in the territory to support mineral exploration programs."



» A peak into Archer Cathro's core shack during their 2020 Yukon exploration field season as Arina Kho, Geotech, prepares sample bags for shipment.

One of the many additional operational challenges of conducting exploration projects during the pandemic continues to be securing crew and contractors and retaining them.

As such, last year's program had to use a non-Yukon drilling company.

"It was an outside drill contractor, so that's why there isn't a big dollar value given for drilling," continues Burrell. "You could add \$1 million to the Yukon-based expenditures if we had successfully secured a local driller."

Also of particular note is the \$80,000 on groceries alone and Archer Cathro's long-time relationship with one of its suppliers.

The Riverdale Super A, a Whitehorse-based, family-owned and operated grocery store, tragically had its roof collapse in the spring of 2021 due to record snowfall. Thankfully while no one was injured, the collapse forced the retail side of the business to close indefinitely.

"We were one of the first calls the owners made after ensuring the safety of their staff and securing the building," muses Burrell. "They said not to worry, they would still supply our groceries for the upcoming season and were grateful for our business. That's one of the things about this industry and community that I like so much. We are here to support each other."

By the time this article is published, Archer Cathro will be in the field for another season, supporting—and with the support of—Yukoners. □

THE BUDGET WAS AS FOLLOWS:

Construction Materials	\$44,910.36
Manufacturing	\$119,357.73
Groceries	\$83,377.32
Aviation	\$16,267.00
Analytical	\$246,076.05
Local Contractors	\$236,265.00
Fuel Suppliers	\$177,405.66
Local Employee Wages	\$733,679.10
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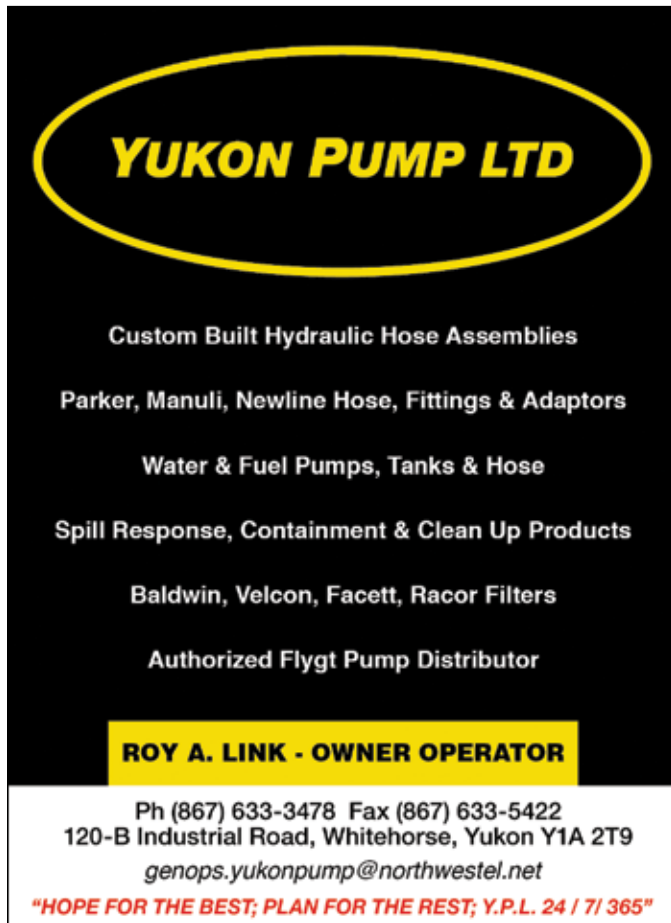
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GOING VIRTUAL: 2020 YUKON CHAMBER OF MINES ANNUAL YUKON GEOSCIENCE FORUM & TRADE SHOW



In light of the pandemic and like so many organizations and companies facing similar scenarios, the Yukon Chamber of Mines staff, Board of Directors, and event organizers faced a gut-wrenching decision over the fate of November 2020's Annual Yukon Geoscience Forum & Trade Show: whether to proceed or not when event attendees could not come together in person

The very culture of the event throughout its 48 years centres on gathering, sharing success stories and best practices, and the annual event is a highlight for attendees after traditionally busy summer and fall field seasons.

"We decided after much discussion and deliberation over the summer and fall to move forward with an adapted event in order to continue to support our dynamic membership and 'come together' as COVID-19 protocols would allow to help advance the interests of all those involved and invested in the Yukon's mining industry," says Ed Peart, Yukon Chamber of Mines President.

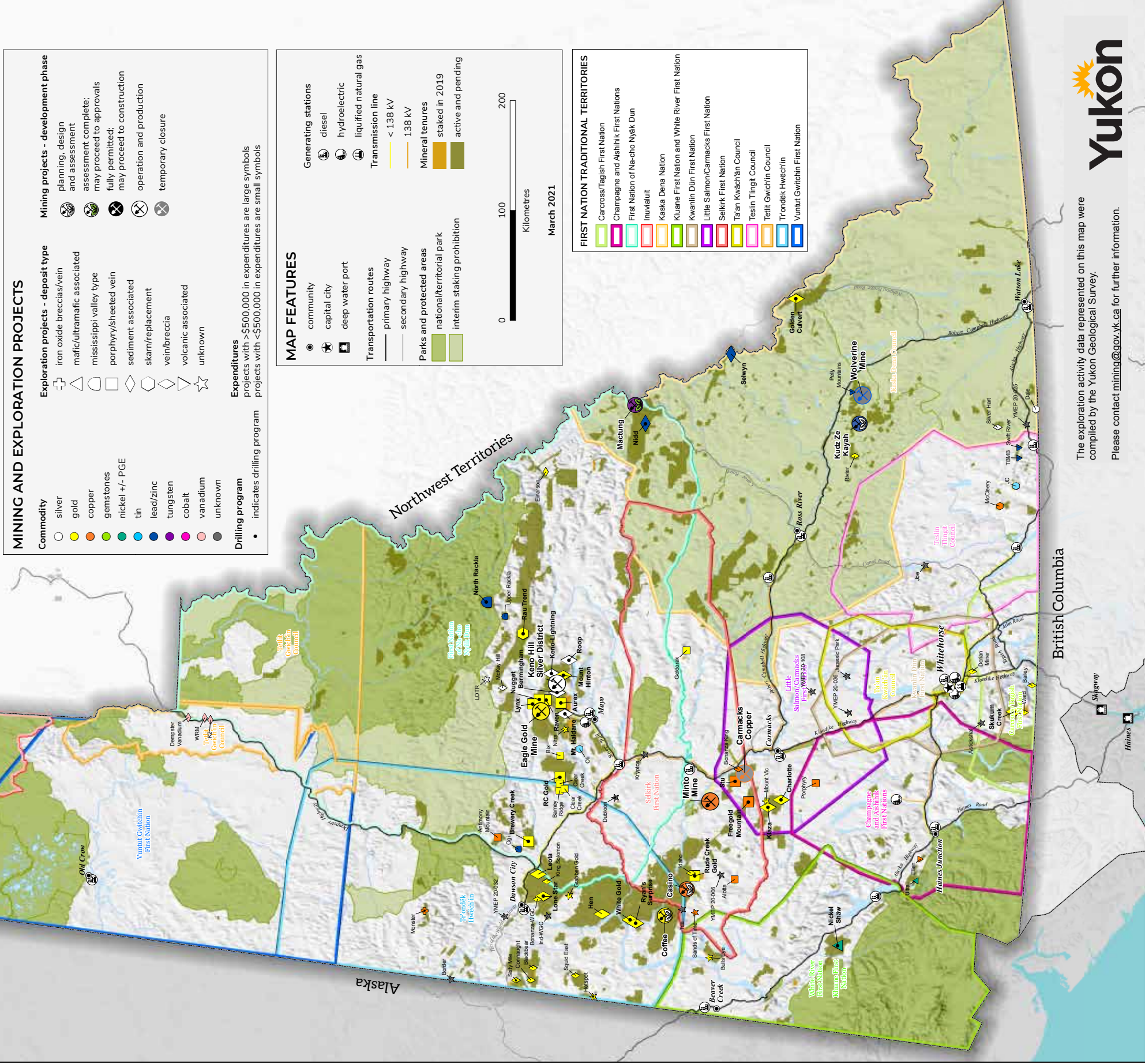
The result was an innovative and interactive virtual conference, complete with Annual Yukon Geoscience Forum favourites, including corporate presentations, technical talks, a trade show, and poster and core-shack sessions. New was the inclusion of a 1-on-1 meeting platform, through which delegates were able to schedule a host of meetings via video conferencing on their devices or desktops, and live coverage and physically-distanced interviews through the popular Geoscience Broadcast Centre.

"On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff, I'd like to thank all of our partners, sponsors, speakers, exhibitors, and organizers, and of course all the delegates, for making this new virtual approach such a success," adds Peart.

All 2020 Yukon Annual Geoscience Forum & Trade Show materials and presentations are available to event delegates and Yukon Chamber of Mines members at yukonminers.ca.

Photos: Aislinn Mathison Photography

Yukon Mineral Exploration, Development and Mining Activity 2020



The exploration activity data represented on this map were compiled by the Yukon Geological Survey.
Please contact mining@gov.yk.ca for further information.



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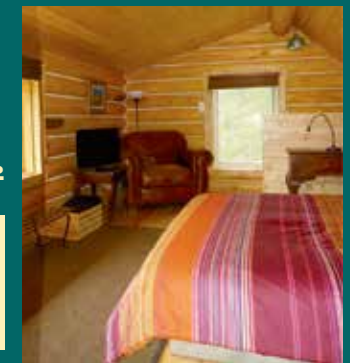


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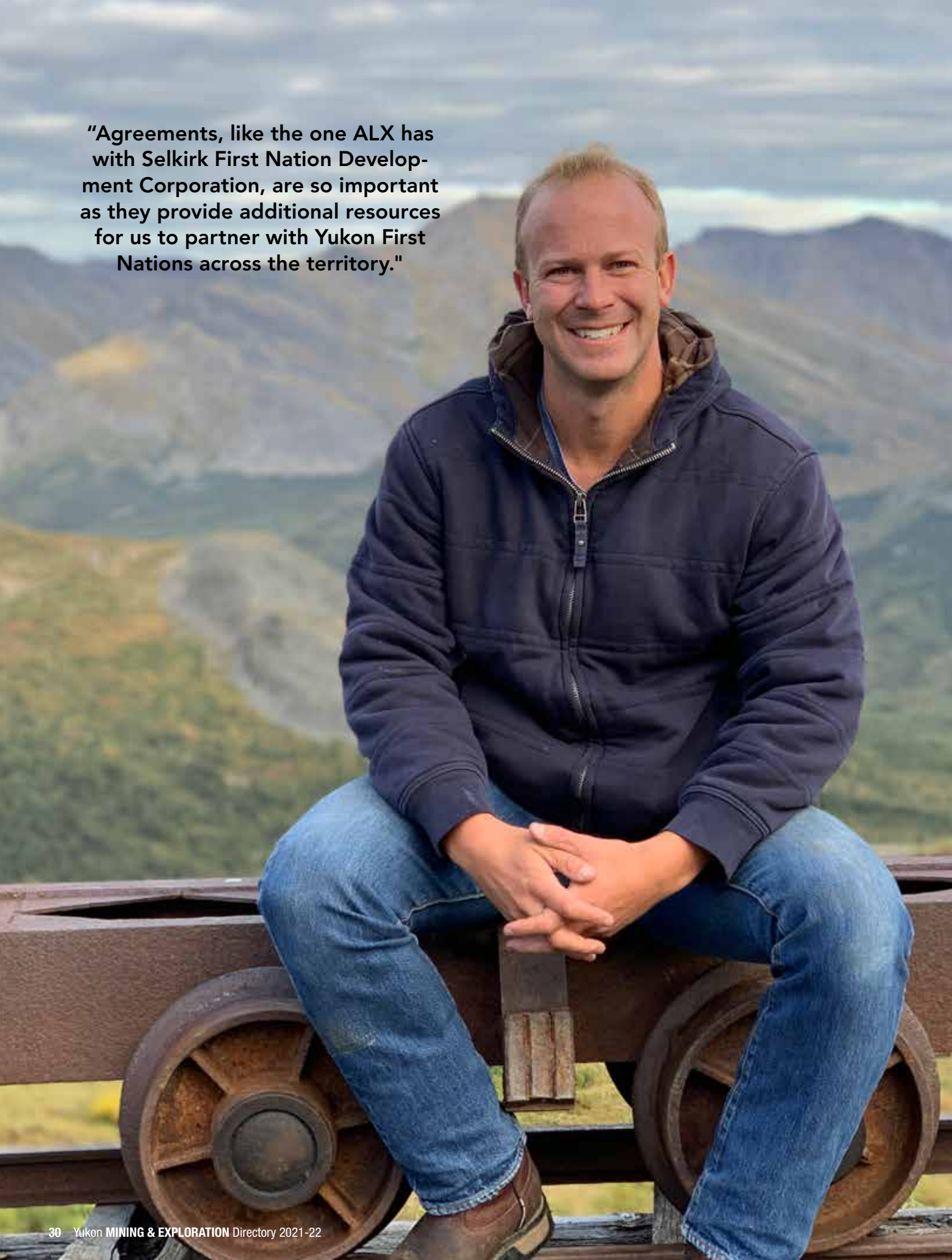
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"Agreements, like the one ALX has with Selkirk First Nation Development Corporation, are so important as they provide additional resources for us to partner with Yukon First Nations across the territory."



MEANINGFUL OPERATIONS

Through Respectful and Trusting Partnerships

Undeniably, more than any other private-sector industry in the territory, the Yukon's mineral development, exploration, and associated service and supply companies have prioritized building and maintaining respectful, strong, and trusting partnerships with the communities within which their projects and clientele operate.

Yukon companies have demonstrated, through past and ongoing agreements, their commitment to continue to improving on how they engage with and do business with First Nations governments. Yukon companies are global industry leaders in finding new and innovative ways to ensure benefits to communities are both tangible and measured.

These agreements provide social and economic benefits and opportunities right here at home—where Yukoners live and work and raise their families—throughout, and beyond, the life of a project. Such partnerships allow the industry to support community-led programs throughout the territory and include training, literacy, and educational opportunities that result in being able to employ Yukoners, and Yukon First Nations in particular, in rewarding careers.

One such agreement established in 2019, between Yukon company ALX Exploration and Mining Supplies (ALX) and Selkirk First Nation's development corporation, focuses on ensuring benefits and opportunities stemming from the Minto Mine, located on the First Nation's Category A

» **Top:** ALX Exploration and Mining Supplies' yard in Whitehorse. **Left:** Alan Lebedoff, Founder and President of the Yukon company ALX Exploration and Mining Supplies, at Alexco Resource Corp.'s historic Keno Hill Silver District.



» ALX Founder and President Alan Lebedoff from the era when he was known in the Yukon's mining industry as the "Core Box Kid."

"As a local supplier, our profits stay right here in the Yukon focused on things like these agreements, which benefit our territory and First Nations citizens."

Settlement Lands, remain in the community and in the territory.

"These agreements, like the one ALX has with the Selkirk First Nation Development Corporation, are so important as they provide additional resources for us to partner with Yukon First Nations across the territory," says ALX Founder and President Alan Lebedoff. "The ability to invest in initiatives, and partner with Yukon First Nations, to have a direct and positive impact on Yukon communities and residents allows ALX to help showcase the benefits that come from a strong exploration and mining industry."

Interestingly, the Minto Mine was ALX's very first customer way back in December 2005, when the mining company placed an order for 2,500 core boxes from Lebedoff, who at the time was fondly referred to as the "Core Box Kid" for his entrepreneurial vision, work ethic, and fortitude establishing ALX while still in his teens.

"Supplying a project like the Minto Mine, through our agreement with the Selkirk First Nation Development Corporation, has allowed ALX to expand our product offerings and support community-led initiatives important to the First Nation," adds Lebedoff. "This has created more local demand and allowed us to build more local capacity and give Yukoners more steady work and opportunity year-round—outside of the traditional exploration season from May to October."

Since 2006, ALX has grown to become a full-range supplier to the exploration and mining industry throughout Canada's northwest.

"As a Yukon company with Yukon employees, our agreement with the Selkirk First Nation Development Corporation opens additional avenues for the First Nation to benefit from the Yukon mining industry through our company's commitment to the territory," continues Lebedoff. "As a local supplier, our profits stay right here in the Yukon focused on things like these agreements, which benefit our territory and First Nations citizens."

ALX looks forward to what creative and impactful initiatives and benefits future partnerships will bring to Yukon First Nations, the territory's mining industry, and the entire Yukon. □

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» Dave Rouleau, Victoria Gold Corp's Vice-President of Operations and General Manager, kicked off the Eagle Gold Mine vaccination program in April 2021.

HEALTH AND SAFETY AT THE EAGLE GOLD MINE

Since the COVID-19 pandemic first affected the territory in March 2020, Victoria Gold, owner and operator of the Eagle Gold Mine, has met or exceeded the guidelines and recommendations as outlined by the Yukon government and Chief Medical Officer of Health.

Strict pandemic mitigations have served to uphold the health and safety of the company's employees and embedded contractors, as well as that of residents and communities.

The Victoria Gold team continues to follow rigorous COVID-19 protocols at the mine and company-wide. For example, Victoria Gold follows a Yukon government-approved alternate isolation plan for the transportation of employees and at site. This strategy includes separating Yukon employees from those from outside the territory when in transit between Whitehorse and the mine.

Once at site, employees and contractors have their meals, reside, and recreate in separate camp dormitories according to their place of residence. Masks are worn and physical distancing is implemented. Non-emergency access in and out of site is prohibited during the mandatory 14-day isolation period.

The Eagle Gold Mine also has primary-care paramedics on-site and added registered nurses to the company's staffing roster. In addition to any medical issues that may occur, the nurses also proactively implement various health initiatives, including, but not limited to, blood-pressure clinics, flu vaccinations, and women's health.

"Victoria Gold is committed to the health and safety of our workforce at the Eagle Gold Mine and to our neighbouring communities," says Victoria Gold Corp President and CEO John McConnell.

This spring, Victoria Gold was offered the opportunity by the Yukon government to have its employees and embedded contractors vaccinated for COVID-19 at site. Throughout March and April 2021, the first dose was administered with the second dose provided in May.

Adds McConnell, "Our entire team greatly appreciates the support of the Yukon government as we work together to help protect Yukoners, while maintaining successful operations and our company's contributions to the territory's economy and important social initiatives. □

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YUKON WOMEN IN MINING

CREATING A CULTURE OF DIVERSITY, INCLUSION, AND RESPECT

This year marks the 125th Anniversary of gold's discovery in the Klondike by Shaw Tláa (Kate Carmack) and the Klondike Discoverers. Yukon Women in Mining (YukonWIM) is honouring the past, as the organization celebrates today's modern mining industry, with a host of engaging community-wide events and activities throughout 2021.

Founded in 2012 by Anne Turner, who is also YukonWIM President, the not-for-profit organization and its volunteer board of directors work to cultivate and communicate diversity, inclusion, and respect within the territory's mineral sector and highlight the wide-ranging opportunities which exist for women in it.

For example, Turner supported the Yukon Chamber of Mines and industry partners to induct Kate Carmack, and acknowledge her role alongside the Klondike Discoverers in 1896, in Canada's Mining Hall of Fame (January 2019). The male discoverers, who until that time were historically credited—George Carmack, Robert Henderson, Skookum Jim Mason, and Dawson Charlie—had been inducted two decades earlier. That recognition however, omitted Kate.

YukonWIM continues dedicating efforts to keeping Kate's story alive and helping Yukoners continually

connect the discovery of gold in the Klondike to her, while encouraging, empowering, educating, and elevating all women in mining.

"We were extremely proud to help Yukoners, and all Canadians, recognize Kate Carmack and her integral role in Klondike's gold discovery," says Turner. "Kate may well have been the original discoverer; however, women could not register a claim at that time and, as a result, over a century passed without due acknowledgement of her contribution."

The Yukon would undeniably be a very different place today without Kate and her role in what became the largest gold rush in Canadian history and a pillar of the territory's socio-economic identity.

"YukonWIM is committed to recognizing the untold contributions of all the women who have paved the way in our industry and, in doing so, support all those who have followed and seek to follow in order to continue building a strong, diverse, and inclusive mineral sector here in the territory," adds Turner.

Yukoners can learn more about Kate Carmack, and all that Yukon Women in Mining works for and achieves at yukonwim.ca. □



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Additional responsibilities of the Board are set out in other laws and agreements including the Quartz Mining Act (Yukon), Placer Mining Act (Yukon), Oil and Gas Act (Yukon), Expropriation Act (Canada), Radiocommunications Act (Canada), and individual Yukon First Nation Final Agreements.

To learn more about the Board and its process visit yukonsurfacerrights.ca or contact the Board's office.



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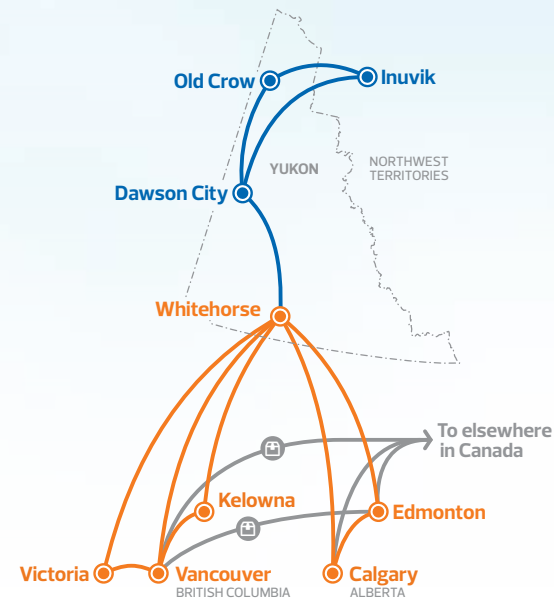
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Andrew Cremata, Mayor of the Borough of Skagway, Alaska

NEIGHBOURS IN NEED

Q&A with Skagway Mayor Andrew Cremata

For over a year, the COVID-19 pandemic has affected lives and livelihoods around the world and continues to be acutely felt a mere 180 km from Whitehorse, down the South Klondike Highway, in Skagway, Alaska. The town of approximately 1,000 permanent residents relies in large part on the 1.5 million cruise ship passengers and crew who visit the charming and stunningly scenic port town each summer.

Of those total passengers, 80,000 travel to the Yukon each year, totalling approximately 16 per cent of the territory's visitation numbers, according to the Yukon government.

This past February, Transport Canada announced it was extending its ban on cruise ships entering Canadian ports until February 28, 2022, which will further harm the Alaskan cruise industry and Skagway businesses. This ban stems from U.S. maritime regulations, which stipulate that all foreign and U.S. cruise vessels traveling between two U.S. ports must make an immediate stop in a foreign country—in this case, Canada. Skagway also serves as a vital link to tidewater for Yukon commerce and industry.

Although an international border separates our two jurisdictions, Skagway is beloved by Yukoners. The Yukon Chamber of Mines had the opportunity to check in with Skagway Mayor Andrew Cremata about how he and his community are holding up.

"I have numerous friends in the Yukon, and it's always a pleasure to see them come to Skagway."

How are the residents and businesses of Skagway faring through the COVID-19 pandemic?

It's not been easy, but we are using our resources wisely. It will take some time to ascertain the overall damage from the pandemic as businesses are hurting. Especially those entirely dependent on Skagway's cruise ship traffic.

The Yukon relies upon, and greatly appreciates, tidewater access to the Yukon granted through Skagway. What can the Yukon better do to support commercial diversity at the Port of Skagway?

Advocate for it with the State of Alaska. Skagway needs a dedicated industrial facility/dock to facilitate the needs of Yukon industry. We've been fighting for this for two years. Any help we can get is appreciated.

What are you missing most about Yukoners visiting Skagway and vice versa?

We miss the independent tourism traffic and comradery that Yukoners provide. I have numerous friends in the Yukon, and it's always a pleasure to see them come to Skagway. Most Skagwegians miss going to Whitehorse to shop and for the many outdoor recreation opportunities, including camping, fishing, and biking. We

also miss the access to the South Klondike Highway that allows us to travel to interior Alaska, Atlin, and Dawson and even the Lower 48.

Moving forward, how do you think we could work better together across our respective jurisdictions to the benefit of Skagway and the Yukon?

Communication is key. I also think a partnership of some sort is in the interests of both our jurisdictions.

Can you describe a "perfect day" when visiting the Yukon?

For me, it's waking up in my tent, starting a fire, fishing along the shore or in my canoe in of the Yukon's lakes, catching some lake trout or pike and cooking them back at camp, hiking a mountain trail in the afternoon, and drinking a few beers by a campfire as the sun goes down. All while spending time with my wife, friends, and dog.

What should we tell southerners about why they should visit the North?

It's the real frontier. There are endless opportunities to connect with nature, recreate, and meet some of the most rugged, independent people on the planet. If you love the outdoors, where else would you rather be?

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